## Appendix D – Public Input During The Public Comment Period and DCR Responses

| | Summary of Public Input - Public Comment Period 1/3 - 2/3/06 | |
|---|---|---|
| **Type** | **Comment** | **DCR/DWSP/OWM Response** |
| **NGO-1** | It does seem odd that logging is allowed to take place, but off-road bicycling is not. | Logging activities are a highly controlled activity within the Division's Land Management Plan for Water Quality Protection. |
| **NGO-2** | Add "no wading or entering water courses or waterbody" to the general access conditions | |
| | List where driving for sightseeing (paved roads) is allowed. | Reference to map added in policy. |
| | Snowmobiling access program should be implemented very carefully: with a specific review schedule and a statement noting DCR's right to eliminate it. Did any nearby homeowners participate in specifying the designated trail? | Staff will patrol per implementation schedule. Homeowners did not participate. Trail on existing road system. |
| | DCR should avoid lessening restrictions for bicycling on designated roads and off-reservation roads. Bicycling on off-road areas remains prohibited - the right decision! | Restrictions have not been lessened. |
| | Sledding policy discussion is very confusing. | Modified |
| | For Cross-country skiing policy mention that the designated off-reservation areas are not groomed or routinely patrolled. | Comment added |
| | Change Boat Fishing to Motor Boat Fishing and include the valid fishing license requirement. | Working group decided to maintain boat fishing category name. Valid fishing license requirement in policy. |
| | Include the valid fishing license requirement in the Canoeing/Kayaking/Boating policy | Valid fishing license requirement listed in footnote. |
| | Include instructions on how to reach the VC for group activity requirements | VC telephone number listed in policy. |
| | Wildlife/Bird watching is confusing. Isn't this the same as group activities, except the van reference doesn't appear in the group activities. | This is an activity with historical elements and is thus different than group activities. |
| | Clarify where dogs, horses and other animals are prohibited (e.g. All DCR owned lands in the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed System). Clarify Quabbin reservoir | Area definition was clarified. |
| | Collecting policy is still confusing: clarify "historical activities" and who it is limited to | Historical activities are non-destructive, non-commercial collecting of edible materials such as blueberries and fiddleheads. |
| | Add - if an activity is not listed, it is likely to be prohibited or restricted, and please contact the VC. | Added to matrix |

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| | A somewhat larger explanation of watershed rules, including technical zoning and such, as well as access and recreation should be done. The watersheds need ongoing vigilance to keep the water quality height as time passes. | Technical zoning not applicable to public access management plan. |
| **GP-1** | Your cross-country skiing policy seems made up. "Allowing hiking and snowshoeing, while prohibiting x-country skiing is silly and should be reversed." | Cross-country skiing is allowed on DCR lands in the off-reservation areas - over seven thousands acres. |
| **GP-2** | I believe that the method used to rank Personal Values from the surveys was overly simplistic and resulted in ranking that was favorable to the DCR but unfair to those who participated in the survey as it did not fairly represent their actual choices. | The DCR has reviewed suggestions to revisit personal value ranking used and has modified its ranking. |
| **GP-3** | I hope the cross-country skiing policy will be adjusted to allow skiing in the Reservation area | At this time, the DCR believes that cross-country skiing allowed on off-reservation lands and prohibited on lands near the reservoir represents a policy that can be controlled and monitored given current resources and balances public drinking water supply protection and public desire for recreational access. |
| **GP-4** | Please consider establishing a network of scenic routes within the Reservation for hiking and bicycling. I would further suggest that scenic corridors should be designated at the same time to manage land use along the routes.  I believe many Quabbin visitors would appreciate such a scenic route and scenic corridor network. | The DCR is required to actively monitor and control recreational activities-particularly any expanded recreational activity. The establishment of scenic corridors for bicycling is not compatible with this requirement, at this time.  However, we will forward your comment regarding the establishment of scenic corridors for walking to staff working on the Division's Forest Management Plan. |

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| **GP-5** | | I am writing to express my deep disappointment with the draft Quabbin Public Access plan as it pertains to bicycling on the roads. The arguments given for limiting or excluding bicycle access could apply to any of the existing user groups. I am puzzled by the categorization of bicycles as being "vehicles". I ask that you defer any final decisions regarding (bicycle) use on the roads until the subject can be more fully and reasonably discussed. | 1) Bicycle access i has been expanded in the 2006 Plan. However, DEP has cautioned the DCR that any expanded activity must be monitored and assessed for any potential negative impacts according to the waiver from filtration requirements. The DCR will revise any expanded activities if any negative impacts are perceived. 2) Bicycles are categorized as vehicles (non-motorized) for organization purposes of the matrix format. 3) The Division and Regional Director have reviewed your comments and.... |
| **GP-6** | | We greatly appreciate the beautiful, nature-based environment that is found at the Quabbin Reservoir. The Quabbin Reservoir provides an enriching place for families to bond with the great outdoors and fits into any monetary family budget… which in itself is a gift that is rarely seen anymore. | Thank you for your comment. |
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| | | NGO = non-governmental organization | |
| | | GP = General Public | |